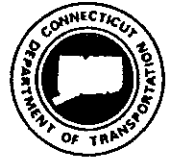




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Hearing – March 4, 2009 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation

H. B. 6547 – An Act Increasing the Penalty for Violations of Certain Statutory or Regulatory Provisions Concerning Taxicabs. (Department of Transportation proposal)

H.B. 6547 would amend CGS 13b-97(c) to increase the civil penalty for violations of Chapter 244a or regulations relative to taxicabs from \$100/day to \$1000./day.

In 2000, the General Assembly increased the civil penalties for livery service violations from \$100/day to \$1000/day. Extending the same civil penalty levels to taxicabs would provide consistency within the industry. The higher penalty level would also give the hearing officers latitude in assessing penalties and would be high enough to deter routine violations that occur now due to the low penalty levels. At present, the only alternative to a \$100 civil penalty is to either suspend or revoke a taxicab provider. The suspension or revocation of a taxicab provider usually has a detrimental impact on the public that utilizes such service. The current civil penalty limit of \$100 has been in place since 1997.

H.B. 6547 was proposed in an effort to improve safety adherence by holders of taxi certificates and is consistent with the recommendations of both the Program Review and Investigations Committee's report on the taxi and livery industries and raised S.B. 902.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.